

## Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222592

FOR USLO AND S/S TOSEC 356

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: ADVERSE PRC REACTION TO AAU SUSPENSION OF  
SWIMMERS WHO VISITED CHINA

REF: PEKING 1364 (TOSEC 287)

1. USLO OF COURSE RECALLS DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE THAT SEND-  
ING ACTIVE AAU-REGISTERED ATHLETES TO THE PRC WOULD RUN  
UP AGAINST THE AAU/FINA DICTUM NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH  
NON-FINA AFFILIATED COUNTRIES. IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT  
AAU/FINA MIGHT ATTEMPT TO PENALIZE THE PARTICIPANTS BY  
EXPELLING THEM INDIVIDUALLY AND PERHAPS EXCLUDING THE US  
TEAM FROM THE BELGRADE WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN  
AUGUST 1973.

2. IN AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID THE AAU/FINA PROHIBITION, THE  
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DEPARTMENT CONTRACTED WITH STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND ITS

SWIM COACH TO RECRUIT NON-ACTIVE, NON-AAU REGISTERED SWIMMERS FOR THE PRC TOUR. ALL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE BRIEFED THAT THE AAU WOULD PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO EXPEL THEM UPON THEIR RETURN TO THE US.

3. AAU SENT AN EXPULSION WARNING LETTER MAY 15 TO ALL ATHLETIC MEMBERS, COACHES AND PRESS STEWARDS OF THE DELEGATION. UPON THE DELEGATION'S RETURN, A FINAL

EXPULSION LETTER WAS DISPATCHED TO EACH PARTICIPANT BY AAU ON JULY 2. THE LETTER STATES THAT THE AAU HAD RULED "THAT THE REGISTERED ATHLETES INVOLVED HAVE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED THEMSELVES FROM FURTHER AMATEUR AQUATIC COMPETITION INDEFINITELY. AND FURTHER, THAT ALL THOSE ATHLETES, COACHES AND PRESS STEWARDS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE TOUR BE REMOVED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF ALL AAU COMMITTEES, AT ALL LEVELS, AND FROM MEMBERSHIP ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE."

4. UPON THE SWIM TEAM'S RETURN TO THE US, AL SCHOENFIELD, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF "SWIMMING WORLD MAGAZINE" BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST THE AAU TO SHOW CAUSE FOR EXPULSION. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SWIM COACHES ASSOCIATION UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED THE SWIMMERS' AND COACHES' POSITION. AT THE AAU NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MID-OCTOBER, THE AAU INTERNATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO THE WHOLE SWIMMING COMMITTEE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE DELEGATION BE RESTORED TO THEIR EARLIER STATUS. THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS IMMEDIATELY APPROVED BY THE 500-MEMBER AAU BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

5. UNSATISFIED WITH THIS "RESTORED" STATUS, SCHOENFIELD IS PURSUING HIS SUIT TO FORCE AAU TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE AND THE OTHERS WERE NEVER SUBJECT TO EXPULSION IN THE FIRST PLACE, THUS ATTEMPTING TO WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN. THE CASE IS STILL IN LITIGATION.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FINA EXECUTIVE BOARD IN BELGRADE HAS STRENGTHENED RULE 53 WHICH EXCLUDES RELATIONS BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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AFFILIATED AND NON-AFFILIATED COUNTRIES. THE PURPOSE APPEARS TO BE TO DISCOURAGE ANY FURTHER CONTACT WITH THE PRC UNLESS IT JOINS FINA. ADDITIONALLY, DR. HAROLD HENNING, PRESIDENT OF FINA, HAS WRITTEN TO THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ALL CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION INFORMING HIM OF FINA'S INTEREST IN HAVING PRC JOIN.

7. AS MRS. HEWITT POINTED OUT TO SUNG CHUNG, THE

NATIONAL ATHLETIC GROUPS ARE OFTEN HAMSTRUNG IN WHAT THEY CAN DO UNDER THE RULES OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL PARENT BODIES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CHINESE UNDERSTAND THIS POINT. MANY U.S- ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS HAVE URGED THE PRC TO JOIN THEIR PARENT INTERNATIONAL BODIES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ATHLETIC EXCHANGE. (THE USG HAS A PROBLEM SUPPORTING THIS, OF COURSE, BECAUSE IT WOULD OFTEN MEAN OUSTER OF TAIWAN.)

8. THE IMPORTANT POINT FOR THE CASE AT HAND, HOWEVER, IS THAT AMERICAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS PER SE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO FRIENDLY EXCHANGE WITH THE PRC BUT FACE A DIFFICULT SITUATION WITH THEIR PARENT ORGANIZATIONS. IN THE SWIMMERS' CASE, THE ORIGINAL EXPULSION ACTION WAS REVERSED. IN LIGHT OF THAT ACTION AND THE GENERALLY FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF AMERICAN SPORTS GROUPS TOWARDS EXCHANGE WITH THE PRC, IT IS HOPED THAT THE ALL CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION WILL NOT OPPOSE FURTHER ATHLETIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. RUSH

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